

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

GRAND PROCESSION OF COLORED LOYALISTS.

OVATION TO GEN. SAXTON.

HONORS TO NORTHERN MEN.

Many Changes—The Oath.

From Our Special Correspondent.

CHARLESTON, March 27, 1865.

There was the greatest procession of loyalists in Charleston last Tuesday that the city has witnessed for many a long year. The present generation has never seen its like. For these loyalists were true to the Nation without any qualifications of State rights, recovered sovereignty, or other allegiances; they gloried in the flag, they adored the Nation, they believed in the fullest faith in the ideas which our banner symbolizes and the country avows as its own. It was a procession of colored men, women and children—a celebration of their deliverance from bondage and ostracism; a jubilee of freedom, a Lenten to their deliverers.

The celebration was projected and conducted by colored men. It met on the Citadel green at noon. Upward of ten thousand persons were present—colored men, women and children—and every window and balcony overlooking the square was crowded with spectators. This immense gathering had been convened in 24 hours, for permission to form the procession was given only on Sunday night, and none of the preliminary arrangements were completed till Monday at noon.

Gen. Hatch, Admiral Dahlgren and Col. Woodruff gave their aid to the movement, and thereby the 1st Regiment of U. S. C. T., a hundred colored men and a number of national flags gave dignity and added attractions to the procession.

The procession began to move at one o'clock, under the charge of a committee and marshals on horseback, who were decorated with red, white and blue sashes and rosettes.

First came the marshals and their aids, followed by a band of music, then the 1st Regiment in full force; then the clergymen of the different churches, carrying open Bibles, then an open car, drawn by four white horses, and tastefully adorned with National flags. In this car there were 15 colored ladies dressed in white to represent the 15 cent Slave States. Each of them had a beautiful bouquet to present to Gen. Saxton after the speech which he was expected to deliver. A long procession of women followed the car. Then followed the children of the Public Schools—or part of them; and there were 1,600 in line, at least. They sang during the entire length of the march:

John Brown's body lies a-mould'ring in the grave,
John Brown's body lies a-mould'ring in the grave,
His soul is marching on!

Glory! Glory! (Hallelujah!)
Glory! Glory! (Hallelujah!)
Glory! Glory! (Hallelujah!)
We go marching on!

This verse, however, was not nearly so popular as one which it was intended should be omitted, but rapidly supplanted all the others, until at last all along the mile or more of children, marching two abreast, no other sound could be heard than:

We'll sing Jeff Davis on a sour apple tree!
We'll sing Jeff Davis on a sour apple tree!
We'll sing Jeff Davis on a sour apple tree!
As we go marching on!

The secret of the popularity of this verse was found out after the procession was over. Mr. Timothy Hurly, of Charleston, Massachusetts, volunteered to teach the children at the different schools to sing this song; but was desired by the superintendent to omit this verse, on the ground of a personal opposition to capital punishment in all cases where criminals are in a position where they can be prevented from injuring society. Many of the children already knew the song, and took the advice not to sing that verse contrawise—as perhaps, they were expected to do by their volunteer teacher. It did seem that they could remember no other verse, and the rest with which they sang it showed little appreciation of the position of the opponents of the penalty of death.

Very few of these children had ever been at school before; not one of them had ever walked in a public procession; they had had only one hour's drill on their playground; and yet they kept in line, closed up, and were under perfect control and order up to the last. They only ceased to sing in order that they might cheer Gen. Saxton, Col. Woodford, various groups of Union officers or soldiers, or one or two Northern men whom they recognized as their friends. Gen. Saxton and lady were in a carriage at one street where the procession passed, and Col. Woodford and lady at another; and one continuous cheer greeted them, mingled with cheers for an officer whom they supposed to be Gen. Hatch. The colored people know all these officers as their friends. Gen. Saxton is their favorite everywhere in the Department, and they have all learned that Gen. Hatch and Col. Woodford gave them equal rights in the public schools—an advantage which they prize next to freedom.

After the children, came the various trades. First, the fishermen, with a banner bearing an emblematic device, and the words, "The Fishermen welcome you, Gen. Saxton." Second, a society with the banner, "The Union South." Third, carpenters, masons, teamsters, drovers, coopers, bakers, paper-carriers, barbers, blacksmiths, wood-sawyers, painters, wheelwrights, and the fire companies. The carpenters carried their planes and other tools; the masons their trowels; the teamsters their whips; the coopers their axes; the bakers' smokers hung round their necks; the paper-carriers a banner, and each a copy of *The Charleston Courier*; the barbers their shears; the blacksmiths their hammers; the wood-sawyers their sawblades; the painters their brushes; the wheelwrights a large wheel; and the fire companies, ten in number, with their banners, their firemen with their trumps.

The most original feature of the procession was a large cart, drawn by two deplorable horses with the worst harness that could be got to hold out, which followed the trades. On this cart there was an auctioneer's block, and a black man with a bell, representing a negro trader, and a red flag waving over his head; recalling the days so near and yet so far off, when human beings were made merchandise of in South Carolina. This man had himself been bought and sold several times; and two women and a child who sat on the block had also been knocked down at public auction in Charleston. As the cart moved along, the auctioneer rang his bell and cried out: "How much am I offered for this good cook?" "She is an 'oldest cook, 'gmen." "She can make four kinds of mock turtle soup—from beef, fish or fowl." "Who bids?" "200's bid." "Two hundred?" "300's bid." "300?" "350." "400?" "Who bids?" "Who bids?" "500." And so went an imitating in sport the infernal traffic of which many of the spectators had been the living victims. Old women burst into tears as they saw this tableau, and forgetting that it was a mimic scene, shouted wildly: "Give me back my children! Give me back my children!" The wailing of hands seen on the sidewalks came more than one looker-on to curse the policy that would even suggest the possibility that the wretches who had bought and sold old men might be ought to be redempted to the rights of citizenship. But there are people here who would even recommend that these persons alone should be regarded as citizens: There is no officer in all the United States who could stand up before the storm of righteous indignation which a false record of the lives of the oath-takers here would arouse. And that chronicle of crime in being made here, if ever they attempt to put down the true loyalists here, this record will be sent to THE TRIBUNE.

Behind the auction-car 60 men marched, tied to a pole—in imitation of the gangs who used often to be led through these streets on their way from Virginia to the sugar-fields of Louisiana. All of these men had been sold in the old times.

Then came 1/20 hours—a comic feature, which attracted great attention, and was received with shouts of laughter. There was written on it with chalk:

"Slavery is Dead."
"Who Owns Him?"
"None."
"Sunder Dog His Grave on the 13th April, 1861."
Behind the horse, 50 women marched dressed in black, "with the sable weeds of mourning, but with joyous faces," as a natural-born orator from Banker Hill remarked on the occasion.

Various societies were represented. The procession was more than two miles and a half in length, and officers said that it marched in better military style than the great procession on the 6th of March in New-York. There was no drunkenness, no riotous disposition, no insolent airs, no rudeness.

The banners bore among other mottoes, these sentences:

"We know no caste or color."
"The spirit of John Brown still lives."
"Liberty and Union, one and inseparable."
"Our past the black, our future the school."
"We know no master but ourselves."
"We are filling the last ditch."
"Our Reply to Slavery—Colored Volunteers."
"Free Homes, Free Schools, One Country and One Flag."
"We are on the way to Banker Hill."
"Banker Hill and Fort Sumter, both Shelter the Freedmen."
"The Heroes of the War: Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Farragut, Dahlgren, Porter, Perry."
"The Privateers."
"The Heroes of Humanity: Butler, Chase, Garrison, Douglass, Greeley, Beecher."
"Massachusetts Greets South Carolina as a Child Redeemed."
"Freedom with Poverty, rather than Slavery with Luxury."
"We can respect the Purity of the Ballot Box."

The great procession took one hour and twenty minutes to pass any point. On its return to the Citadel where a stand was prepared for Gen. Saxton and the other speakers, there were at least 10,000 persons assembled. There were 4,000 men in the procession by count, exclusive of the military, the women and the children.

A shower of rain, which began to fall as the procession arrived at the Citadel, rendered it expedient to postpone a speech.

Rev. Mr. French led in singing a doxology, and the great assembly dispersed in an orderly manner after enthusiastic and prolonged cheers for Gen. Saxton, the Yankees, the Star Spangled Banner, and a final, tumultuous and long continued three times three for Abraham Lincoln.

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